

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, and 21-26 are pending in this application, of which Applicants propose to amend claim 17 to further define aspects of the invention.

The above-identified application was allowed in the Notice of Allowance mailed March 13, 2006. The issue fee has not been paid.

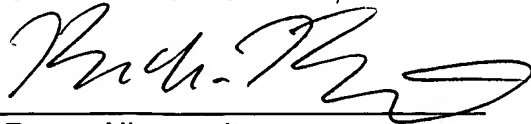
On April 4, 2006, subsequent to the receipt of the Notice of Allowance, Examiner Tran telephoned Applicants' undersigned representative to suggest amendment of claim 17 to further define aspects of the invention, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,531,377 to Knorr et al. Applicants' proposed amendment to amend claim 17 is submitted herewith pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion.

The proposed amendment is fully supported by the specification and drawings, will not require an additional search, and does not raise new issues. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered and the requested changes made.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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RVB/RWN